

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/881,732

Examiner

Dwin M. Craig

Applicant(s)

FUJIMORI ET AL.

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/21/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

And

EXAMINER'S REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-18 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul W. Bobowiec Reg. No. 47,431 on 5/21/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 17, line 8 has been changed from "topologies" to -- topologies. --.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While *Chang* teaches a noise determination method for determining noise with respect to analyzing a circuit and *Mehrotra* teaches a plurality of circuit topologies and *Chang* teaches an expert system that recommends design changes to a circuit, none of the references taken either alone with the prior art of record disclose, outputting an improvement proposal, specifically including:

(claim 1) "...outputting an improvement proposal from the computer to the user for making the analyzing circuit closer to one of the basic types of the transmission circuit topologies depending upon the analyzing circuit judgement result",

(claim 6) "...to output and improvement proposal to the user for making the analyzing circuit closer to one of basic types of the transmission circuit topologies depending on the analyzing circuit judgement result",

(claim 11) "...to output an improvement proposal to the user for making the analyzing circuit closer to one of the basic types of the transmission circuit topologies depending on the analyzing circuit judgement result",

(claim 16) "...outputting a noise countermeasure improvement proposal from the computer to the user for making the analyzing circuit closer to one of basic types of the topologies based on the comparison",

(claim 17) "...and outputted as a noise counter measure improvement proposal to the user, wherein a transmission waveform of the analyzing circuit differs depending on each of the plurality of transmission circuit topologies...", **in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention.**

Further and in regards to the claimed limitation, *improvement proposal*, Applicants' specification is clear as to what specifically embodies the claimed *improvement proposal*. More specifically, the specification clearly teaches the definition of the claimed *improvement proposal* in figures 34 and 37 and in the descriptive text on pages 11, 16, 17 and 61-63 of the specification. Clearly figure 34 teaches that the proposal will at least contain a recommendation to either change a driver or change the length of a wire or change a damping resistor or, as

Art Unit: 2123

regards figure 37, move the position of a receiver, provide a terminating resistor or change a driver to one that has a large driving ability. Specifically, as regards the prior art, *Chang* and *Mehrotra* fails to disclose or suggest the specific types of elements as disclosed by the specification definition of the term *improvement proposal*. Finally, it is noted that the Applicants' specifically argued that an *improvement proposal* was not being disclosed by the cited references, see pages 9-11 of the arguments presented on 2/21/2007. The combination of Applicants' arguments, with the instant amendment to claims 16 & 17 and further the specific embodiments presented in Applicants' specification have been sufficient, in combination, to overcome the prior art rejections and are therefore the claims are now allowable over the prior art of record.

3.1 Regarding dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 18 these claims are allowable for at least the reason they depend upon an allowed base claim.

3.2 Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

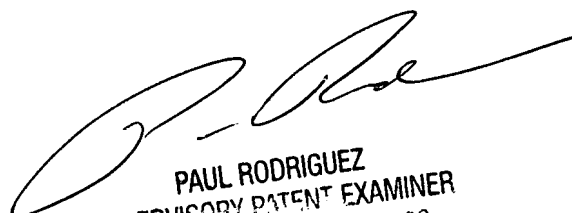
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dwin M. Craig whose telephone number is (571) 272-3710. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul L. Rodriguez can be reached on (571) 272-3753. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dwin McTaggart Craig



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